

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Your station should be an example of a non-partisan effort as opposed to using your access to the public airwaves to influence the outcome of the Presidential election. The credibility of your station to provide any non-biased news reporting will forever be in doubt if you air this piece and not air a pro-Kerry documentary for free at a similar airing time of the day.

Reputable stations in Peoria have for many years created formats to provide equal access to opposing candidates in high profile races to express their views for free. They do this as a public service and earn the public's respect. Your actions if you follow through will exhibit the worst aspects of corporate take over and attempts to manipulate the public's attitudes and voting patterns.

You may say you want to hide behind the first amendment to air a one-sided and biased video. But, actually you mock & diminish the Constitution and the men and women who have given their lives and liberty to protect it.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.